



Stephen C. LaTourette
Congress of the United States
14th District, Ohio

July 31, 2012

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Mr. Daniel R. Elliott
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Re: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

The proposed acquisition of RailAmerica, Inc. by Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. (G&W) has recently been announced, and I write to encourage the STB to review this transaction on an expedited basis. I am a supporter of the short line freight railroad industry and encourage efforts to increase the viability of freight railroad service in Ohio, and across the nation. Both RailAmerica and G&W own several major short line railroads in Ohio. Over the years I have seen first-hand the work of these short line railroads and know the critical link they provide for major employers in Ohio.

A lengthy approval process will bring uncertainty to shippers and make it difficult for current RailAmerica management to plan future capital investment. An expedited review will reduce uncertainty and limit the amount of time the short line freight railroads in my state are in regulatory limbo.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on this matter. I remain,

Very truly yours,

Steve LaTourette
Member of Congress